

Message Text

PAGE 01 LONDON 02397 251143Z

42

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O 251141Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8201

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 02397

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, UK

SUBJECT: REQUEST BY LIBERAL PARTY LEADER TO
SPEAK TO SECRETARY

REF: LONDON 1399

1. JEREMY THORPE, LEADER OF THE LIBERAL PARTY, HAS
TELEPHONED EMBASSY FROM HIS CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS IN
NORTH DEVON WITH A REQUEST THAT HE BE PERMITTED TO
SPEAK TO SECRETARY KISSINGER ON TELEPHONE DURING
SECRETARY'S STOPOVER IN LONDON FEBRUARY 25-26. THORPE
HAD EARLIER EXPRESSED DESIRE TO MEET SECRETARY
PERSONALLY (REFTEL), BUT TIGHT CAMPAIGN SCHEDULE MAKES
IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO LEAVE HIS OWN CONSTITUENCY
SO CLOSE TO POLLING DAY (FEBRUARY 28).

2. THORPE SUGGESTS ARRANGING TELEPHONE CONVERSATION
FOR THIS EVENING OR TOMORROW MORNING AT 8:30.

3. COMMENT: WE RECOMMEND SECRETARY ACCEDE TO THORPE'S
REQUEST. LIBERAL PARTY HAS ENJOYED A STRONG RESURGENCE
IN PUBLIC OPINION POLLS DURING PAST WEEK AND CHANCES
ARE INCREASING THAT IT MAY HOLD BALANCE OF POWER IN
NEXT PARLIAMENT.

4. PLEASE REPLY URGENTLY, I.E., BEFORE SECRETARY'S
ARRIVAL IN LONDON, SO THAT WE MAY MAKE NECESSARY
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

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ARRANGEMENTS WITH THORPE.

ANNENBERG

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

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DecapTION Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Authority: cunninfx
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